2500.68328 PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In Re U.S. I                        | Patent Application  | )   |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Applicant: Toru Yokohata Serial No. |                     | )   | States Postal Servi<br>Mail Stop PATEN | ify that this paper is being deposited with the Unit<br>Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed t<br>TENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.<br>exandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date. |  |  |  |
|                                     |                     | )   | 9-15-03<br>Date                        | Express Mail Label No.: EV032734949US  |  |  |  |
|                                     |                     | )   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Filed:                              | September 15, 2003  | )   |  |  |  |  |  |
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R.§§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

Patrick G. Burns Registration No. 29,367

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500 Chicago, Illinois 60606 Telephone: (312) 360-0080 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

Customer Number 24978

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| Form PTO-1449 (Rev. 8-88) U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) |                                       |                      |  | Attorney Docket No.: 2500.68328 Serial No.:                        |        |  |  |           |  |  |
|   |                                       |                      |  | Applicant: Toru Yokohata   |        |  |  |           |  |  |
|   |                                       |                      |  | Filing Date: Sep. 15, 2003   | Group: |  |  |           |  |  |
| U.S. PATE   | NT DOCUMENTS                          |                      |  |  |        | <u>.                                    </u>     |  |           |  |  |
| Examiner<br>Initial*  | Document Number                       | Date                 | Name   |  | Class  | Subclass   | Filing Date If Appropriate                       |           |  |  |
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|   | Document Number                       | Date                 | Country  |  | Class  | Subclass   | Yes  | No        |  |  |
| -+  | 9-063050                              | Mar. 7, 1997         | Japan  |  | -      | Succiano   | Abs.   |           |  |  |
|   | 2002-022716                           | Jan. 23, 2002        | Japan  |  |        | <del> </del>                                     | Abs.   | -         |  |  |
|   | 11-110750                             | Apr. 23, 1999        | Japan  |  | +-     | <del>                                     </del> | Abs.   | -         |  |  |
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| Examiner  |                                       |                      | D  | ate Considered   |        |  |  |           |  |  |
| *Examiner:  |                                       |                      |  | not citation is in conformance visidered. Include copy of this for |        |  |  |           |  |  |

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